

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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MEXICO CITY - FOR AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD FROM FORD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, PFOR, TRA

SUBJECT:TRADE ACT OF 1974 - OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL SPECIAL
SESSION - SOME IMPRESSIONS

1. I THOUGHT YOU WOULD WANT SOME RANDOM IMPRESSIONS OF THE
MEETING WHILE STILL A BIT FRESH:

2. ATMOSPHERE: IN OVER SEVEN YEARS IN THESE MEETINGS WITH
THE LATIN AMERICANS, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SEEN THEM
SO BUSINESS-LIKE, DETERMINED AND EVIDENTLY UNITED ON AN
ISSUE. MY ONE ATTEMPT AT HUMOR CAUSED NOT A SINGLE RIPPLE.
ONLY NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR SEVILLA SACASA MANAGED TO BREAK
THE ICE MOMENTARILY WITH THE STORY OF HIS RESURRECTION FROM
THE DEAD.

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3. PERSONALITIES: YOUR MANY FRIENDS AMONG THE OAS AMBASSADORS WERE FREQUENTLY QUITE HELPFUL TO ME. QUIJANO AND TRUCCO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR YOUR TALKS WITH THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS AND LET ME KNOW THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE. I RECOGNIZED OF COURSE THIS WAS ISSUE ON WHICH LATINS WERE WELL UNITED. AMBASSADOR ALVARADO, DESPITE HIS REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC IN PUBLIC WHEN SPEAKING FOR PERU, WAS A JUST CHAIRMAN, LEANING OVER BACKWARDS TO AFFORD THE U.S. EVERY COURTESY. AMBASSADOR MACHIN OF VENEZUELA, WHO IS NEW AND QUITE GREEN IN THIS GAME, LIKED

THE LIMELIGHT, SEEMED TO BE FEELING A BIT THE HEADY WINE OF A LEADERSHIP ROLE, AND WAS LOUD AND EXCESSIVE. AT TIMES HE GOT MY DANDER UP WHEN HE SKIRTED THE EDGE OF THE UNACCEPTABLE. (I FOUND USEFUL REBUTTAL IN EX-PRESIDENT CALDERA'S REMARKS PRAISING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE U.S. TO SIT DOWN WITH LARGE AND SMALL ALIKE IN FORA LIKE THE COUNCIL TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF HEMISPHERIC INTEREST.) ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN AMBASSADORS MC INTYRE AND FLETCHER WERE WILLING TO PUBLICLY HELP THE U.S. AMBASSADOR DE LA COLINA OF MEXICO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO ENSURE I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING AMONG THE LATINS AT ALL TIMES.

4. THE RESOLUTION: IT WAS THE INITIAL PRODUCT OF ECUADOR'S LEORO AND VENEZUELA'S MACHIN AND WAS DEBATED FIRST IN PRIVATE SESSION. THE LATINS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD FROM THE OUTSET THAT THEY WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO PRODUCE A RESOLUTION ON WHICH THE U.S. COULD CAST A FAVORABLE VOTE BECAUSE OF THE VERY NATURE OF THE PROBLEM -- THE U.S. CRITICIZING ITS OWN LAWS OR URGING ITSELF TO A COURSE OF ACTION.

5. JAMAICA'S AMBASSADOR FLETCHER'S ELOQUENT REMARKS IN THE CLOSED DOOR SESSION OF JANUARY 21ST HELPED MODERATE THE FINAL RESOLUTION. HE SAID QTE LET US WORK TOWARD A RESOLUTION WHICH REFLECTS THE FEELINGS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND SECRETARY KISSINGER, AND ONE WHICH THE U.S. DELEGATION COULD VOTE FOR. I AM DISTURBED THAT OUR POSITION IS SO MUCH UNDERSTOOD BY THE U.S. EXECUTIVE BUT NOT BY THE LEGISLATIVE. I AM A LEGISLATOR IN MY OWN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRY AND HAVE EXPERIENCED IN THAT CAPACITY OFFENSIVE STATEMENTS TOWARD LAWS WHICH JAMAICA, IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS, HAS PUT INTO EFFECT. WE KNOW WHAT PRESSURES ARE ON U.S. LEGISLATORS FROM THEIR CONSTITUENTS. SOMEHOW WE HAVE NOT GOTTEN TO THE LEGISLATORS; WE DID NOT USE LOBBIES; WE DID NOT USE OURSELVES AND THE REACTION OF U.S. LEGISLATORS HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY WHAT OCCURRED IN

THE UNITED NATIONS. WE AMBASSADORS IN THE OAS ARE IN DIS-
ARRAY AS TO HOW TO APPROACH THIS PROBLEM BUT WE HAVE GOT
TO TALK IT OUT ACROSS THIS TABLE FOR WE HAVE A PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE UNITED STATES THAT HAS TO LAST...END QTE.

6. WHAT FINALLY EMERGED WAS A TONED DOWN VERSION WITH THE
ELIMINATION OF SUCH PHRASEOLOGY IN THE ACTION PARAGRAPHS
AS QTE DECLARING UNACCEPTABLE THE DISCRIMINATORY AND
COERCIVE CHARACTER OF THE MEASURES CONTAINED IN THE LAW
END QTE. IN FACT THE U.S. OFFERED TO VOTE FOR THE
THREE ACTION PARAGRAPHS IF THE LATINS WOULD NOT PREJUDGE
THE OUTCOME OF THE DEBATE IN THE OAS ASSEMBLY IN APRIL
1975 BY ATTEMPTING TO CHARACTERIZE THE TRADE BILL IN THE

ASSEMBLY AGENDA TITLE. IT SEEMED TO ME THAT SOME OF THE
OTHER AMBASSADORS WORKED ON AMBASSADORS LEORO AND MACHIN
IN THE SOFTENING PROCESS. THE FINAL RESOLUTION, BY COM-
PARISON WITH MANY OVER THE YEARS, I WOULD CHARACTERIZE AS
MODERATE AND AN HONEST EFFORT TO NOT BE OFFENSIVE TO THE
U.S.

7. GENERAL IMPRESSION: IT SEEMED TO ME THAT OUR LATIN
AMERICAN COLLEAGUES WERE GENUINELY CONCERNED. THEIR
WILLINGNESS TO BE LED BY VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR INTO THIS
ARENA WAS NO DOUBT INFLUENCED BY THE BELIEF THAT WHILE
TODAY IT IS THESE TWO COUNTRIES WHO ARE ALLEGEDLY THE
VICTIMS TOMORROW IT COULD BE ANY ONE OF THEM.

8. THE OAS WILL HAVE THE TRADE ACT AS A PRINCIPLE ITEM ON
THE AGENDA FOR THE MARCH 10 IA-ECOSOC (FINANCE OR ECONOMY
MINISTERS) AND THE APRIL 14 OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (FOREIGN
MINISTERS). KISSINGER

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